

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 CG-00 RSR-01 /091 W
----- 071077

R 280240 Z JUN 73

FM AMCONSUL SYDNEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4657

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL PERTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SYDNEY 1557

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, AS

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR GREEN'S VISIT TO SYDNEY

1. IN THE FIRST OF THEIR OFFICIAL VISITS TO THE STATES OF AUSTRALIA, AMBASSADOR AND MRS. GREEN VISITED SYDNEY JUNE 25 THROUGH JUNE 27. THE OCCASION WAS ATTENDANCE AT A WELCOMING LUNCHEON ON JUNE 26 GIVEN JOINTLY BY THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE AUSTRALIAN- AMERICAN ASSOCIATION, THE AMERICAN SOCIETY AND THE AMERICAN NATIONAL CLUB. OFFICIAL ATTENDANCE WAS 590 IN THE WENTWORTH BALLROOM WHICH HAD NOT BEEN SO FILLED IN CONGEN'S MEMORY. AT LEAST 100 APPLICATIONS TO ATTEND HAD TO BE REJECTED BECAUSE OF INADEQUATE SPACE. AMBASSADOR GREEN GAVE A 30 MINUTE TALK SETTING FORTH IN BROAD GENERAL OUTLINES THE BREADTH AND DEPTH OF THE AUSTRALIAN- AMERICAN CONNECTION IN ALL OF ITS RAMIFICATIONS, HISTORICAL, CULTURAL, POLITICAL, DEFENSE, SCIENTIFIC, ETC. AMBASSADOR GREEN'S TALK, SERIOUS IN ITS MESSAGE BUT SPARKED BY HUMOROUS SALLIES, WAS ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECEIVED AND WILL BE WIDELY DISCUSSED IN SYDNEY.

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2. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THIS LUNCHEON, AMBASSADOR MET THE TV, RADIO AND WRITING MEDIA IN A PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH WAS FRIENDLY BY COMPARISON WITH HIS PRESS CONFERENCE IN CANBERRA. TWO WEEKS EARLIER, BEFORE ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM. SYDNEY MORNING HERALD QUOTED AMBASSADOR GREEN AT SOME LENGTH AS RECOGNIZING AUSTRALIA'S DESIRE TO "DEFINE ITS UNIQUE IDENTITY AND PERSONALITY" WHICH COMPORTED WITH U. S. VIEWS AS LONG AS WE BOTH WORKED TOWARD COMMON OBJECTIVES OF PROGRESS AND PEACE. HERALD QUOTED AMBASSADOR AS RECOGNIZING THAT "THERE ARE NO FRIENDS LIKE OUR GOOD, OLD AND TRUSTED FRIENDS, AND WE HAVE NO BETTER FRIEND THAN AUSTRALIA". ALTHOUGH MEDIA PRESSED AMBASSADOR TO COMMENT ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE COMING NIXON- WHITLAM TALKS, THEY ACCEPTED IN GOOD GRACE HIS REFUSAL TO DO SO. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION RELATING TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S RECENT CRITICISM OF GENERAL MOTORS HOLDEN APPOINTMENT OF AN AMERICAN TO REPLACE AN AUSTRALIAN AS MANAGING DIRECTOR, AMBASSADOR GREEN DID NOT TAKE ISSUE WITH PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM BUT REPLIED, "GENERALLY WE FEEL THAT COMPANY MANAGERMENTS ARE IN THE BEST POSITION TO CHOOSE THEIR EXECUTIVES." IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION ABOUT OMEGA, AMBASSADOR GREEN POINTED OUT IT IS NOT A MILITARY INSTRUMENT AND HAS THE FUNCTION OF A "WORLD- WIDE LIGHTHOUSE" SYSTEM FROM WHICH ALL WHO PLY THE SEAS WILL BENEFIT, NOT LEAST THE AUSTRALIANS.

3. ALSO DURING SYDNEY VISIT, AMBASSADOR GREEN PAID OFFICIAL CALLS ON LORD MAYOR OF SYDNEY, CHIEF JUSTICE OF NEW SOUTH WALES, AND PREMIER SIR ROBERT ASKIN WHO INTRODUCED AMBASSADOR AFTERWARD TO HIS MINISTERIAL COLLEAGUES AND SOME 150 LEADING POLITICIANS AND BUSINESSMEN IN NEW SOUTH WALES. THIS CALL AND RECEPTION WERE CONDUCTED DRAMATICALLY IN ROOMS BARELY LIGHTED BY A FEW COLEMAN LAMPS AS PART OF A SHORT- LIVED POWER SAVING CAMPAIGN ENJOINED UPON RESIDENTS OF SYDNEY IN RESPONSE TO A POWER WORKERS' STRIKE. AMBASSADOR AND MRS. GREEN ALSO ATTENDED A DINNER AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE GIVEN BY THE GOVERNOR OF NEW SOUTH WALES SIR RODEN AND LADY CUTLER. IN ADDITION ON JUNE 25

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AMBASSADOR ATTENDED LUNCH AT MY RESIDENCE WITH SEVERAL AMERICAN BUSINESS RESIDENTS OF SYDNEY WHO SPOKE FRANKLY REGARDING SOME OF THE ATTITUDES FELT AMONG THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN THE NEW CONTEXT ENGENDERED BY THE WHITLAM GOVERNMENT.

4. ON JUNE 26 AMBASSADOR MET AT MY RESIDENCE THE THREE PRINCIPAL LEADERS OF THE N. S. W. BRANCH OF THE AUSTRALIA LABOR PARTY: JOHN DUCKER, PRESIDENT OF THE THE NS. W. BRANCH: PETER WESTERWAY, FORMER GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE N. S. W. BRANCH AND A LABOR PARTY CANDIDATE FOR THE FEDERAL SENATE IN THE ELECTIONS EARLY NEXT YEAR: AND GEOFFREY CAHILL, NEWLY ELECTED GENERAL SECRETARY. THIS WAS AN EXCEEDINGLY USEFUL ENCOUNTER FOR BOTH SIDES. THE AUSTRALIANS TOLD ME LATER HOW VALUABLE HAD BEEN AMBASSADOR GREEN'S TOUR D' HORIZON OF THE WORLD SITUATION. SPEAKING OF ALP FEDERAL CONFERENCE NEXT DUCKER, CAHILL AND WESTERDAY BELIEVE THAT THE MODERATE AND RIGHT WING CONTROLLED STATE BRANCHES FROM N. S. W., QUEENSLAND AND SOUTH AUSTRALIA WILL BE ABLE TO OVERCOME THE SPLIT BRANCHES FROM THE OTHER STATES, THUS STRENGTHENING PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM ON HIS RIGHT FLANK. THIS, HOWEVER, DOES NOT REPEAT NOT OBVIATE THE PROBABILITY OF SOME SERIOUS CONFLICTS, ONE OF WHICH WILL BE ON OMEGA. WHILE DUCKER ET AL ACKNOWLEDGE THAT OMEGA IS NOT A MILITARY SYSTEM, YET THEY BELEIVE THAT FOR TACTICAL REASONS THE LEFT WING WILL SEEK TO RAISE THIS SUBJECT AS A KIND OF LITMUS PAPER FOR SEPARATING " THE LEFT WING SHEEP FROM THE RIGHT WING GOATS". THEY BELIEVE THE LEFT WING WILL NOT REPEAT NOT WIN ON THIS OR OTHER CRITICAL ISSUES AND THEY BELIEVE THAT IN PART THE STRENGTHENED POSITION OF THE RIGHT WING CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE IMPROVED ATMOSPHERE RESULTING FROM THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM'S IMPENDING TALK WITH PRISIDENT NIXON AND THE PUBLIC SURFACING OF THE FACT THAT FRIENDLY TALKS ARE ALREADY TAKING PLACE WITH REGARD TO JOINT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE

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NORTHWEST CAPE INSTALLATION.

5. THROUGHOUT THE VISIT LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF THOSE WHOM AMBASSADOR GREEN MET WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY PERSONALLY TO VOLUNTEER THEIR DEEP SENSE OF ATTACHMENT TO THE U. S., AND TO DEPLORE SIGNS OF ANTI- AMERICANISM VOICED BY NUMERICALLY WEAK BUT VOCALLY STRIDENT LEFT. MODERATE ALP LEADERS MENTIONED ABOVE CONCLUDED, AFTER TALKS WITH AMBASSADOR, THAT THERE IS A STRONG IDENTITY OF INTEREST BETWEEN WHITLAM AND ALP MODERATES ON ONE HAND AND U. S. ON OTHER. THERE WILL BE TIMES HOWEVER WHEN, IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE PARTY UNITY ON MAJOR ISSUES, THE MODERATES MAY

MAKE CONCESSIONS ON WHAT THEY FEEL ARE LESSER
ISSUES.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: smithrj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SYDNEY01557
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SYDNEY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730631/aaaajrdp.tel
Line Count: 177
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: smithrj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29-Oct-2001 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <12-Dec-2001 by smithrj>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980302
Subject: AMBASSADOR GREEN' S VISIT TO SYDNEY
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, AS
To: EA
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BRISBANE
CANBERRA
MELBOURNE
PERTH
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

